

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable recording medium storing an application software, personal identification information of a proper user of the application software, and an authentication software for performing personal authentication using the personal identification information prior to the use of the application software by an arbitrary user.

2. A portable recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the application software and the authentication software are stored in a read-only region of the portable recording medium, and the personal identification information is encrypted and stored in a rewritable region of the portable recording medium.

3. A portable recording medium according to claim 2, wherein the authentication software includes at least one of a first authentication function for collating the personal identification information stored in the portable recording medium with personal identification information input by the arbitrary user to perform the personal authentication; and a second authentication function for requesting an external authentication server through an information network to collate the personal identification information stored in the portable recording medium with the personal identification information input by the arbitrary user and for performing the personal authentication by receiving a collation result from the authentication server.

4. A portable recording medium according to claim 2, wherein the personal identification information is fingerprint

information of the user.

5 5. A portable recording medium according to claim 4,
wherein the authentication software includes at least one of a
first authentication function for collating the personal
10 identification information stored in the portable recording
medium with personal identification information input by the
arbitrary user to perform the personal authentication; and a
second authentication function for requesting an external
authentication server through an information network to collate
15 the personal identification information stored in the portable
recording medium with the personal identification information
input by the arbitrary user and for performing the personal
authentication by receiving a collation result from the
authentication server.

20 6. A portable recording medium according to claim 1,
wherein the authentication software includes at least one of a
first authentication function for collating the personal
identification information stored in the portable recording
medium with personal identification information input by the
25 arbitrary user to perform the personal authentication; and a
second authentication function for requesting an external
authentication server through an information network to collate
the personal identification information stored in the portable
recording medium with the personal identification information
input by the arbitrary user and for performing the personal
authentication by receiving a collation result from the
authentication server.

7. A portable recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the personal identification information is fingerprint information of the user.

8. A portable recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the personal identification information is fingerprint information of the user.

9. A method of using a portable recording medium, wherein, in a portable recording medium in which an application software is stored, personal identification information of a proper user of the application software is stored; and personal authentication using the personal identification information is performed prior to the use of the application software in the portable recording medium by an arbitrary user so as to cause the proper user to use the application software stored in the portable recording medium.

10. A method of using a portable recording medium according to claim 9, wherein the personal authentication is performed by using an authentication software stored in the portable recording medium together with the application software.

11. A method of using a portable recording medium according to claim 9, wherein the personal identification information is fingerprint information of the user.

12. A method of using a portable recording medium according to claim 10, wherein the authentication software stored in the portable recording medium together with the application software includes at least one of a first

authentication function for collating the personal identification information stored in the portable recording medium with personal identification information input by the arbitrary user to perform the personal authentication; and a
5 second authentication function for requesting an external authentication server through an information network to collate the personal identification information stored in the portable recording medium with the personal identification information input by the arbitrary user and for performing the personal authentication by receiving a collation result from the
10 authentication server.

13. A method of using a portable recording medium according to claim 12, wherein the authentication server has a license database storing the pieces of personal identification
15 information and license keys of the respective application softwares which correspond to each other, and responds to the second authentication function of the authentication software by using the license key corresponding to the personal identification information as the collation result to limit a
20 function of using the application software stored in the portable recording medium.

14. A method of using a portable recording medium according to claim 13, wherein the personal identification information is fingerprint information of the user.

25 15. A method of using a portable recording medium according to claim 12, wherein the personal identification information is fingerprint information of the user.

16. A method of using a portable recording medium according to claim 10, wherein the personal identification information is fingerprint information of the user.

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